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BISHOP AUCKLAND
Urban District Council.

REPORT



OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

T. A. McCULLAGH,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Etc.

FOR THE YEAR 1925

M. Braithwaite & Son, Printers, Bishop Auckland.

Bishop Auckland Urban District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

T. A. McCULLAGH,

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

My Report for the year 1925, by directions of the Ministry of Health, has to be a survey of the last five years.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area 691 Acres.

Population—Census 1921 ... 14,480.

Estimated to middle of 1925 ... 14,730.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921 ... 2993.

Number of Families, 1921 ... 3120.

Rateable Value and Penny Rate, £69,610 ; £291.

The occupations of the inhabitants are very varied. A large number are employed in the shops, at the Co-operative Stores, at Engineering establishments, and many are miners, most of whom are out of work. There are no special causes that have any influence on Sickness and Mortality. The amount of Poor Law Relief in 1925 is represented by a Rate of $\frac{5}{6}$ in the £ in April, and $\frac{4}{4}$ in the £ in October.

The number of Deaths during 1925 was 179 ; 106 males and 73 females. This excludes the deaths of persons not ordinarily resident, and includes those of residents who died outside the District. For the last five years the numbers are



as follows :—

1921	...	208	Death-rate	14·4
1922	...	215	„	14·7
1923	...	179	„	12·03
1924	...	206	„	14·1
1925	...	179	„	12·01

The population is taken at the estimated number 14,730 for the middle of 1925.

The number of Births was 297 ; 148 boys and 149 girls. Fourteen were illegitimate.

The Birth-rate per 1,000 population is 20·1.

1921	...	396	Birth-rate	27
1922	...	350	„	24
1923	...	353	„	24
1924	...	322	„	22
1925	...	297	„	20·01

There were 35 Deaths of Infants under 1 year, a mortality of 117 per 1,000 births.

			Death-rate per 1,000 Births.	
1921	...	42	...	106
1922	...	31	...	88
1923	...	23	...	65
1924	...	37	...	114
1925	...	35	...	117

The chief causes of death were Measles 11, Cancer 14, Heart disease 15, Bronchitis 11, Pneumonia 20. There were no deaths from Small-Pox, Enteric Fever, Scarlet Fever, or Diphtheria. One death occurred from Encephalitis Lethargica (Sleepy Sickness), and 2 from Influenza. The really preventable deaths in this list are those from Measles. Most are due to complications caused by neglecting to treat the disease seriously from the beginning.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Measles	...	...	11
Whooping Cough	...	...	3
Influenza	...	...	2
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	4
			<hr/> 20

Zymotic Death-rate - 1·3

1921	...	20	Rate 1·3
1922	...	20	„ 1·3
1923	...	8	„ 0·5
1924	...	10	„ 0·6
1925	...	20½	„ 1·3

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Forty-one cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year, as follows :—

Small-pox	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	35
Diphtheria	...	3
Erysipelas	...	2

There were no cases of Enteric Fever or Puerperal Fever. None of these died. Twenty-six patients suffering from Scarlet Fever and two from Diphtheria were treated at the Isolation Hospital, and all recovered. The supervision of the Hospital by the Matron, and the nursing, have been excellent. The premises are clean and in good repair, and I have had every reason to be satisfied with the results obtained. Bacteriological examinations are made at the College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Antitoxins are supplied free to doctors.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

The Dispensary which is in charge of Dr. Caldwell, of the Durham County Council, is largely attended. The deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis numbered 8, and from other forms of Tubercular diseases 7.

The Tubercular Death-rate is 1·01,

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water, which is taken from the river Wear, has been of a most satisfactory character throughout the year. Periodical analyses, chemical and bacteriological, are made, and the results have been excellent. The Mechanical filters, and the Chlorine treatment, under the supervision of Mr. Lindsay, have been quite effectual in preventing any possibility of water-borne disease. The analyses are made by an independent authority, the Royal Institute of Public Health. There is a direct supply to 3,200 houses.

SCHOOLS.

All the Schools are in a good sanitary condition.

WATER-CLOSETS, ASHPITS, PRIVIES, BINS, Etc.

There are 2162 Water-Closets, 743 Ash-Closets, and 405 Privy-Ashpits in the District.

The figures for the previous years as as follows ;—

1921—Water-closets	- 2056	1924—Water-closets	- 2120
Ash-closets	- 748	Ash-closets	- 739
Privy-ashpits	- 516	Privy-ashpits	- 451
1922—Water-closets	- 2067	1925—Water-closets	- 2162
Ash-closets	- 743	Ash-closets	- 743
Privy-ashpits	- 510	Privy-ashpits	- 405
1923—Water-closets	- 2079		
Ash-closets	- 740		
Privy-ashpits	- 492		

The Scavenging has been well carried out, and complaints have been few. The same report applies to the emptying of the bins. Forty-six ash-pits and privies have been removed. In 40 cases Water-closets have been installed, and in 6 Ash-closets. There are still 405 of the insanitary Privy Ash-pits, and whenever there is the opportunity these should be done away with.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Children's Clinic continues to do good work. It is largely attended and very much appreciated in the District.

The Maternity Hospital of seventeen beds, which is under the management of the County Council, has been most useful, and has been made use of by many women who belong to the Urban District.

THE WORKHOUSE HOSPITAL.

The Hospital has beds for 120 patients, and is used for the whole Union, and is under the control of the Guardians.

LADY EDEN HOSPITAL.

This Hospital of 12 beds is primarily for the treatment of surgical cases, chiefly accidents. Besides the inmates a great many out-patients receive treatment. It is maintained almost entirely by workmen's subscriptions, and consequent upon the numbers who are out of work it is having considerable difficulty to meet expenses.

ST. MONICA'S HOME.

This Institution receives unmarried mothers and their children. It is maintained by private subscriptions.

SMALL-POX HOSPITAL.

By arrangements with the Joint Hospital Board any cases of Small-pox in the Urban District will be treated at their Isolation Hospital. This also applies to cases of Encephalitis Lethargica.

HOMELESS CHILDREN.

These are received at the Cottage Homes under the control of the Guardians.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

There are Clinics under the County Council.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. Sanderson, the Sanitary Inspector (Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and advanced Certificate of Science and Art Dept., South Kensington), is in constant touch with me, and is of very great assistance. He reports regularly to me any matters which require my attention, and always accompanies me in inspections. I also receive frequent reports of sanitary defects and cases of overcrowding from the County Council Health Visitors.

I see Mr. Lindsay, who has charge of the Waterworks, regularly, and he supplies me with the results of the analyses whenever they are received from the Institute of Public Health.

MILK SUPPLY.

Most of the Milk sold in the town comes from the Rural District. There are only 3 Cowsheds in the Urban District. There are 20 registered Sellers of Milk. All the premises are periodically inspected and have been found clean.

MEAT REGULATIONS (1924).

Since these regulations came into force all the Slaughter Houses have been inspected in accordance with the rules. There are 13 licensed Slaughter Houses. The premises are kept clean, and the quality of the Meat sold is very good. The number in 1921 was the same, 13.

OTHER FOODS.

The Markets have been regularly inspected. No unsound food has been observed.

BAKE HOUSES.

There are 9 Bake Houses in the town. They have been regularly inspected and found kept in good sanitary condition.

LODGING HOUSES.

These are all old buildings, and somewhat dilapidated. The Inspector reports that they are kept clean and in good order.

PLACES OF AMUSEMENT.

Mr. Sanderson has inspected all of these at intervals, and reports that they are clean and the sanitary arrangements good.

SEWERS.

For the last 5 years a Sewerage Scheme dealing with the South end of the Town has been in progress. This is now completed at a cost of £9,035. Previously the sewerage from this district discharged into the river Gaunless. There is some trouble during heavy rains and this defect is being dealt with now.

HOUSING.

There is a shortage of working-class houses. A scheme is now in course of adoption by the Urban Council to build houses for the working classes.

An important Colliery close to the town is closed and not likely to be re-opened, and I think consequently the population will probably decrease. At present there is a great deal of overcrowding. From my own observation and Mr. Sanderson's reports there are, I estimate, 85 cases of overcrowding. Beyond serving Notices to abate the nuisance little can be done till more houses are available. The Magistrates are naturally reluctant to make ejection orders when there is nowhere for the people to go except the Workhouse, which is already full. There are 323 back-to-back houses, 15 with one room, 213 with two rooms, and the rest with three or four rooms. A great many houses in Back Bondgate, the Town Head, and various yards, are hardly fit for habitation, and were scheduled as "unfit" before the war. Some of them have now been put into better condition, but many are still very bad.

The number of new houses erected during the last five years is appended :—

		1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
New Houses erected	-	2	11	4	6	9
„ occupied	-	2	9	4	6	9

The defects of the houses are mostly due to their age, and not to any lack of management by the owners.

The general action taken is shown in an appended Table. There are no specially unhealthy areas.

Seven of the 9 houses erected in 1925 were with State Assistance under the Housing Acts.

BYE-LAWS AND ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE.

BYE-LAWS :—Relating to Nuisances in connection with the
removal of noxious or offensive matter.

„ Relating to Slaughter Houses.

„ Relating to Common Lodging Houses.

REGULATIONS,—Dairies, Cow Sheds, Milk Shops.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (AMENDMENT) ACT 1890, Parts 3 and 4.

„ „ - - 1907.

„ „ 1925

with the exception of Sections 21 and 22 of Part II,
Section 44 of Part III and Part V. To come into force on
May 1st, 1926.

Tables I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. A. McCULLAGH, M.O.H.

April, 1926.

TABLE I.

Causes of Death in Bishop Auckland Urban District,
1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH			Males	Females
All Causes (civilians only)			106	73
1	Enteric Fever	..	..	..
2	Small-pox	..	..	..
3	Measles	..	7	4
4	Scarlet Fever	..	..	..
5	Whooping Cough	..	2	1
6	Diphtheria	..	..	..
7	Influenza	..	2	..
8	Encephalitis lethargica	..	1	..
9	Meningococcal meningitis	..	..	..
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	4	4
11	Other tuberculous diseases	..	2	5
12	Cancer, malignant disease	..	9	5
13	Rheumatic fever	..	..	..
14	Diabetes	..	1	..
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage &c.	..	8	2
16	Heart disease	..	9	6
17	Arterio-sclerosis	..	5	3
18	Bronchitis	..	3	8
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	..	10	10
20	Other respiratory diseases	..	3	..
21	Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum.	..	..	..
22	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	..	4	..
23	Appendicitis and typhlitis	..	..	..
24	Cirrhosis of liver	..	..	..
25	Acute and chronic nephritis	..	3	1
26	Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition.	..	..	2
28	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth.	..	8	4
29	Suicide	..	..	..
30	Other deaths from violence	..	7	2
31	Other defined diseases	..	16	15
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	2	1
Special Causes (included above)—				
	Poliomyelitis	..	..	..
	Polioencephalitis	..	..	..
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age, total			24	11
	Illegitimate	..	..	1
Total Births			148	149
	Legitimate	..	145	138
	Illegitimate	..	3	11
Population			..	14,340

TABLE II.

Summary of Work done in the Sanitary Inspector's Department during the Year, 1925.

BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT

1.—Public Health Acts.		Number of Informal Notices written by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice	General Remarks
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions ...	7		7	
	Structural Defects ...	23	7	27	
	Overcrowding ...	12	12	7	
Lodging-houses	...				
Dairies and Milkshops	...				
Cowsheds	...				
Bakelhouses	...				
Slaughter houses	...				
Ashpits and Privies	...	52	1	19	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...				
Waterclosets	...	3	2	5	
Defective Yard Paving	...				
House Drainage	Defective Traps	2		2	
	No Disconnection from Sewers	2		2	
	Other Faults	10	2	12	
Water Supply	...				
Pigsties	...				
Animals Improperly kept	...				
Offensive Trades	...				
Smoke Nuisances	...	1		1	
Other Nuisances	...	1	1	2	
Insufficient Water Closets	...				
Ashclosets	...				
Tins for Dry House Refuse	...				
Factory and Workshops	...				
Totals	...	113	25	84	

II—Water, Food, and Drugs.	Number	Remarks
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	..	
„ „ condemned as unfit for use	...	
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	...	3 Diseased Liver
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	...	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	...	
„ „ found Adulterated	...	

Summary—Continued.

III—Precautions against Infectious Disease.	Number	Remarks.
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed .	6	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	55	
Schools do. do. ...		
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or		
things 		
Convictions for co. do. do. ...		
IV—General.		
Number of New Houses erected during the year ...	9	
Number of such Houses occupied during the year	9	
Ash-pit-privies converted into Ash-closets ...	6	
do. do. Water-closets ...	40	
Ash-closets do. do. ...	2	
Total number of Water-closets in District ...	2130	
do. Ash-closets do. ...	738	
do. Ash-pit privies do. ...	415	

TABLE III.

Name of Local Authority—BISHOP AUCKLAND U.D.C.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Year ending 31st December, 1925.

HOUSING,

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) Total	-	-	9
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts 1909-1925	-	-	7
(1) By the Local Authority	-	-	None
(2) By other bodies or persons	-	-	2

1.—*Unfit Dwelling-houses.*

Inspection.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act or Housing Act	.	186
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910	- - -	66
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		None
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	- - -	Back to Back } 24

2.—*Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers -	None
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3.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*A—*Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1919.*

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | - | - | - | None |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit | - | - | - | None |
| (a) By Owners | - | - | - | None |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | - | - | - | None |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | - | - | - | None |

B—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | - | - | 138 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied: | | | |
| (a) By Owners | - | - | 84 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | - | - | None |

*C—Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing,
Town Planning, etc. Act, 1909.*

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------|
| (1) Number of representations made with a
view to the making of Closing Orders | - | None |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
which Closing Orders were made | - | None |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
which Closing Orders were determined,
the dwelling-houses having been render-
ed fit | - - - | None |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
which Demolition Orders were made | - | 2 |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in
pursuance of Demolition Orders | - | 2 |

TABLE IV,

Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES,**1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

Premises	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories ... (including Factory Laundries)	.. 4		
Workshops ... (including Workshop Laundries)	.. 80	7	
Workplaces ... (other than Outworkers' premises)	..		
Total	.. 84	7	

2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Referred to H.M. Inspector	Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied			
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>					
Want of cleanliness	.. 4	4			
Want of ventilation	..				
Overcrowding ..	..			
Want of drainage of floors	..				
Other nuisances	..				
Sanitary accommodation—					
{ insufficient ..	..			
{ unsuitable or defective ..	1	1			
{ not separate for sexes ..	2	2			
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—</i>					
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (s. 101)	..				
Other offences ...	..			
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections men- tioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factory and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921), ..					
Total	.. 7	7			

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts,

TABLE V.

Number of Houses erected, and Privy Ashpits conversions from 1921-25.

	1921.	1922	1923	1924	1925
Number of New Houses erected during the year ..	2	11	4	6	9
do do occupied do ..	2	9	6	6	9
Ashpit Privies converted into Ash Closets ...	—	—	3	1	6
do do Water Closets ..	2	6	9	40	40
Ash Closets do do ..	1	5	2	1	2
Total Number of Water Closets in the District ..	2056	2067	2079	2120	2162
do Ash Closets ..	748	743	740	739	743
do Ashpit Privies do ..	516	510	492	451	405

TABLE VI.

Institutions, Number, Total Population and Inmates of certain Classes of Institutions and other Special Premises.

	Number of Institutions	Total Population			Inmates only (Classes 1-13)		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Bishop Auckland U.D. (Auckland Guardians)	1	386	151	235	342	142	200
Convalescent and Nursing Homes ...	1	15	11	4	9	4	5
Naval and Military Barracks etc. ..	1	29	29	—	—	—	—
Barns, Sheds etc. including vagrant...	—	5	2	3	—	—	—

TABLE VII.

SUMMARY.

Area	...	...	691 acres
Population (Census 1921)		...	14,480
Rateable Value	...	...	£69,610
Penny Rate	...	...	£291
Death-Rate	...	...	12·01
Birth-Rate	...	...	20·01
Zymotic Death-Rate		...	1·3
Infant Mortality Rate		...	117
Tuberculosis Death-Rate		...	1·01
Infectious Cases Notified		...	41
Removed to Isolation Hospital		...	26